

Fracking Ban Act

Section by Section Summary

Sen. Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Ocasio Cortez (D-NY)

Sec. 1. Short Title: “Fracking Ban Act”.

Sec. 2. Findings. The findings explain what fracking is, detail the ways in which fracking harms public health and the environment, and describe how methane from fracking contributes to climate change. The findings also lay the case for the serious obligation that the American people have to meet the needs of workers and communities that are at the frontlines of the fracking boom.

Sec. 3. Definitions. The terms Acid, Fracked Gas Infrastructure, Fracking, Frontline and vulnerable communities, Proppant, and Solvent are defined.

Sec. 4. Fracking ban.

Sec. 4(a) places a ban on all *new* federal permitting of fracking and fracking-related infrastructure.

Sec. 4(b) directs the EPA to survey all areas where fracking has been, or is being, conducted to determine the need related to cleaning up and remediating pollution from fracked wells, especially around homes, schools, and other inhabited structures.

Sec 4(c) bans new and existing fracking within 2,500 feet of homes, schools, and other inhabited structures on January 1, 2021.

Sec. 4(d) tasks the Department of Labor with producing a multi-agency Just Transition Committee to write a report for Congress detailing recommendations ensuring the health, safety, and prosperity of natural gas and oil producing regions during the phase out of production. In preparing the report, the Just Transition Committee would work with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, representatives of organized labor, frontline and vulnerable communities, and local and state producing region governmental representatives.

Sec. 4(e) bans fracking on all lands and waters outright economy-wide and nationwide on January 1, 2025.

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